

REMARKS

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action mailed on November 25, 2003, of which this response is filed within the three month shortened statutory period for response. Claims 1-33 were pending in the application and the Examiner allowed claims 30-33. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8-9, 18-19, and 25-26.

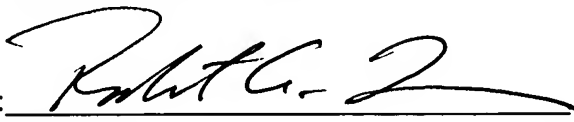
The Examiner next rejects claim 1-7, 10-17, 20-24 and 27-29 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cassell, 4,155,970. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. In general, the Examiner claims, 1) Cassell discloses or suggests the basic claimed method for facilitating the fabrication of a cover, and 2) that Cassell teaches the forming of a first article from a second article. The method described by Cassell is substantively different than the presently claimed invention. Also, the first and second article referenced by the Examiner is substantively different between Cassell and the presently claimed invention. However, to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicant cancels claim 1-7, 10-17, 20-24 and 27-29, without prejudice or estoppel from filing one or more similar claims in one or more applications.

The Examiner next objects to claims 8-9, 18-19, and 25-26 as dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicant has rewritten the claims in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that allowed claims 30-33, and rewritten claims 8-9, 18-19, and 25-26, meet all statutory requirements for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. No new matter is added in this Response. Applicant invites the Office to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response or the present application in general.

Dated: February 25, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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